

II. REMARKS

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the examiner's allowance of claims 1, 7, 9, 13 and 14 as set forth in the April 07, 2004, *Ex parte Quayle* Action. Prior to amendment, claims 1 and 7-14 were pending in this application. Claim 1 has been amended for a minor spelling error. Claims 8, and 10-12 have been cancelled as required in the April 07, 2004, Office Action. However, Applicants reserve the right to pursue the cancelled claims in a divisional application.

The Amendments

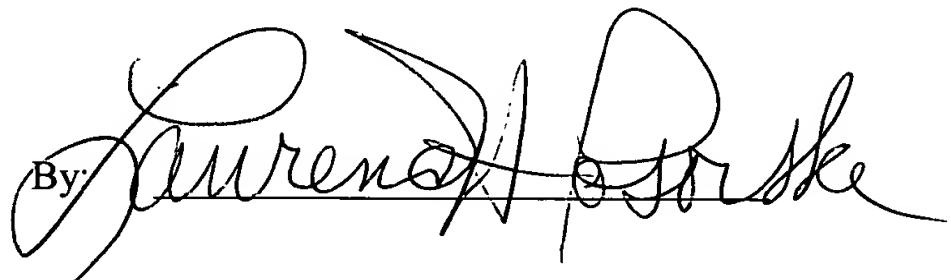
Applicants have cancelled claims 8, and 10-12 as per the examiner's suggestions. In claim 1, a minor spelling error of the chemical name "N-hydroxysuccinimide" has been corrected, which was correctly spelt in the originally submitted claims. The amendments are fully supported in the application as filed and no new matter is added hereby. Entry of these amendments under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 (b) is proper as the amendments comply with suggestions of the examiner and/or put the claims in condition for allowance, and Applicants respectfully request that the amendments be entered in the application. Applicants' amendment of the pending claims addresses all of the issues that were raised in the Office Action.

REQUEST FOR ALLOWANCE

Applicants respectfully submit that in view of the above amendments and remarks, this application is in condition for allowance and respectfully request an early notification of allowance for the claims as amended herein. If any further action is necessary to place this application in condition for allowance, Applicants would appreciate a telephone call to the undersigned counsel to resolve such issues in a expeditious and effective manner.

Respectfully submitted,

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